

nience and superiority to any of the methods hitherto suggested, have been so striking, that he unhesitatingly recommends it in the strongest terms. The cost of the thermopile he states in a note is about £5, and each of the secondary batteries 55 shillings.—*Lancet*, April 30, 1887, p. 867.

H. PERCY DUNN (London).

**II. On the Use of Clay-Modelling in Recording Surgical Cases.** By HURRY FENWICK (London). Mr. Hurry Fenwick exhibited at the Berlin Surgical Congress in April clay models of carcinomatous prostatic disease which he had moulded antemortem from patients upon whom he had been forced to perform colotomy against impending obstruction. He submitted the "method for criticism as a simple and reliable means of estimating the due shape and proportion of the gland in health and disease, as well as to allow of a permanent record being kept of the microscopical changes which may ensue in the course of a prostatic complaint." He complains that the rectal surface of the gland (*i. e.* the clinical prostate) has no fixed or accurate normal standard by which to compare the pathological deviations, and he believes that this method will permit of a normal standard being found.

The *modus operandi* is to model with the left hand while the right index is examining, and when the model nearly corresponds, to correct it finally by passing the right index over the prostate piece by piece whilst the left is correspondingly passed over the rough model. "The living and the dead clay are thus compared, and it is curious how well, how accurately the two forefingers work together if their movements be simultaneous. Any mistake either of elevation or depression is immediately recognized and altered with ease." A little oil on the surface of the clay model making the moulding easier. (Author's abstract).

**III. On the Administration of Carbonate of Lime as a Means of Arresting the Growth of Cancerous Tumours.** By PETER HOOD, M.D., (London). Dr. Hood wrote a paper some twenty years ago on the action of carbonate of lime, and since that

time he considers that the result obtained by its use has been sufficiently remarkable to justify him in again bringing the subject before public notice. Sir Spencer Wells had used carbonate of lime in the treatment of uterine fibroids and other tumours. He explained its action, which he said consisted in causing atrophy and calcification, by bringing about atheromatous changes and subsequently calcareous degeneration in the vessels supplying the growth. Dr. Hood insists upon the persistent use of the drug if any benefit is to result. He thinks that the ordinary history of cancer is such a dismal one, that such a harmless remedy should at any rate be fairly tried. At the same time he throws out a caution that innocent tumours should not be mistaken for malignant ones and errors thus arise. He concludes: "It is therefore not in cases which admit of any reasonable doubt of their nature that I would desire to urge a trial of the lime powder upon the profession. There are hundreds of instances of unmistakable cancer in which an operation, if performed, may perhaps for a time diminish suffering or may prolong life, but in which it cannot afford any well grounded hope of restoration to health. For all such I would say that the lime ought to be persistently and fairly tried. It can do no possible harm, it need not interfere with any remedies for the present relief of pain, its action can be referred to a perfectly intelligible and probable hypothesis, and it has been of unquestionable utility in a sufficient number of cases to warrant us in reposing some confidence in its use.

In the same number of the *Lancet* is a paper containing the report of six cases of malignant disease of the jaw under the care of Mr. Page, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The result was return of the disease, one within four months, one within five months, three within seven months.—*Lancet*, May 7, 1887.

H. H. TAYLOR (London).

**IV. A Comparison of the Surgical Diseases of the White and Colored Races.** By L. McLANE TIFFANY, M. D. (Baltimore). This paper, which the author states to be preliminary in character, is based upon a study of 4,930 cases, of which 64% were white and 36% negro, including mulatto. He has observed that the